

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Office of the Democratic Leader
Washington, DC 20515-6537

June 5, 2002

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I read recently that you taped a video message on the future of Social Security and Medicare. These reports indicate that it has been made available to Republican Members of Congress. I am writing today to request a copy.

Democrats believe that preserving and protecting Social Security and providing affordable prescription drugs through Medicare are two of the most important matters before the Congress. We have voiced concern about efforts underway by Republican House leaders to put off a debate on your recommendations to privatize Social Security until after the fall elections, and we were disappointed by their inability to fulfill their promise and bring up prescription drug legislation prior to the Memorial Day District Work Period.

If we are to have an open and honest debate about the future of Social Security and Medicare, I believe your leadership on these issues is crucial at this point in the legislative schedule. To the extent that Congressional Republicans are developing legislation that is dissimilar to your own prescription drug plan, I would be interested in your views on it. And to the extent that you have championed the efforts of your Social Security Commission that made recommendations to privatize the program late last year, on which there has been no action, or even comment, by the House leadership, I would be interested in your views on the delay in consideration.

I look forward to viewing a copy of the videotape. Without your voice in this public discourse, we cannot hope to have the kind of debate needed to develop consensus on these important programs that are the cornerstones of our retirement security. There is too much at stake for the millions of Americans who are the current and future beneficiaries of Medicare and Social Security. It is important to know your views as we take up these matters in the remaining days of this Congress.

Sincerely,


Richard A. Gephardt